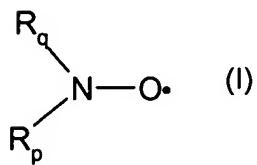


In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of secondary nitroxide radicals from their corresponding secondary amines by oxidation with an organic peracid, comprising the steps
 - a) adding to a reaction vessel a secondary amine, optionally together with an organic solvent, and in one batch a base selected from the group consisting of alkali metal bicarbonates, alkaline earth metal bicarbonates, ammonium bicarbonates, alkaline earth metal carbonates, ammonium carbonates and mixtures thereof in the form of a solid together with water or as an aqueous slurry wherein all of the base needed for the oxidation is added and the water added is sufficient to dissolve the organic acid salt formed in by neutralization reactions between added organic acids and the bicarbonate or carbonate but less than an amount which would dissolve the bicarbonate or carbonate;
 - b) dosing a peracid under stirring to the reaction mixture in an amount of 1.0 to 2.5 mol per mol of secondary amine; and
 - c) isolating the organic phase.
2. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the organic solvent optionally used in step a) is immiscible with water.
3. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the peracid is peracetic acid.
4. (cancelled)
5. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the base is sodium or potassium bicarbonate, calcium or magnesium carbonate or dolomite.
6. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the base is added in an amount of from 0.1 to 1.5 equivalents base per 1 equivalent of all acids present.
7. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the reaction temperature is between 0° C and 40° C.
8. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the dosage of the peracid is carried out from 10 minutes to 5 hours.

9. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the nitroxide radical is of formula (I)

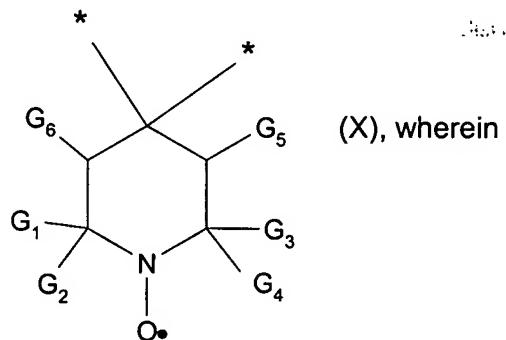


R_p and R_q are independently tertiary bound C₄-C₂₈alkyl groups or C₃-C₁₇ secondary bound alkyl groups which are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more electron withdrawing groups or by phenyl; or

R_p and R_q together form a 5, 6 or 7 membered heterocyclic ring which is substituted at least by 4 C₁-C₄alkyl groups and which may be interrupted by a further nitrogen or oxygen atom.

10. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the nitroxide radical is a compound-

~~which contains~~ is within a structural element of formula (X)



G_1 , G_2 , G_3 , G_4 are independently C₁-C₆alkyl or G_1 and G_2 or G_3 and G_4 , or G_1 and G_2 and G_3 and G_4 together form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group;

*denotes a valence; and

G_5 , G_6 independently are H or C₁-C₆alkyl.